

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
  - 5 a) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-8,
  - b) a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-8,
  - c) a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-8, and
  - 10 d) an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-8.

2. An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-8.

15 3. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.

*Subrah* 4. An isolated polynucleotide of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9-16.

20 5. A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

6. A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.

25 7. A transgenic organism comprising a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.

*Subrah* 8. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide
- 30 comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

9. An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

10. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9-16,
- b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to a 5 polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9-16,
- c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),
- d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b), and
- e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

10 11. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 10.

12. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10, the method comprising:

15 a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 16 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if 20 present, the amount thereof.

13. A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides.

14. A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

25 15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of 30 functional MITP, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the pharmaceutical composition of claim 15.

17. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

35 a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agonist compound identified by a method of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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19. A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional MITP, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition of claim 18.

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20. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

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21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antagonist compound identified by a method of claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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22. A method for treating a disease or condition associated with overexpression of functional MITP, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition of claim 21.

*Sub A2* 23. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 4, the method comprising:

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- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, and
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide.

*Add a3*